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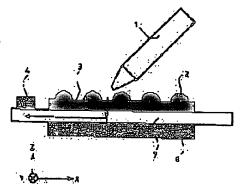
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(54) COORDINATE INPUT DEVICE

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide a coordinate input device which is inexpensive and superior in operability. CONSTITUTION: This device is equipped with a non-vibration pen 1 which has no vibration generation source and an embossed plate 3 which is provided on a propagation body 7 and has many bosses on the top surface and is also provided with a detecting element 6 below the embossed plate 3 across the propagation body 7 and a detecting element 4 along one side in X-axial direction or the side in Y-axial direction of the embossed plate 3. And, the detecting element 6 detects vibration that is generated by bringing the non-vibration pen 1 into contact with the top surface of the embossed plate 3 and on the basis of the point of time when the vibration is detected, the time until the vibration is



detected by the detecting element 4 is measured as a propagation time to detect the generation position of the vibration.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It has the propagation object which spreads mechanical oscillation, and a detection means to detect the oscillation spread with the propagation object, and to change into an electrical signal. In the coordinate input unit which detects the generating location of the oscillation by measuring the travelling period of an oscillation based on the electrical signal from the detection means It has the input plate which is formed the non-vibrated pen which does not have an oscillating source of release, and on said propagation object, and has much projections on a front face. Said detection means The 1st detection means which first detects the oscillation generated by being prepared through said propagation object under said input plate, and contacting said non-vibrated pen on the front face of said input plate, The coordinate input unit characterized by consisting of two or more 2nd detection means for it to be prepared in at least two on said propagation object, and to detect said oscillation following on said 1st detection means, respectively.

[Claim 2] The coordinate input unit according to claim 1 which makes a travelling period time amount until an oscillation is detected by said two or more second detection means on the basis of the event of an oscillation being detected by said 1st detection means, and is characterized by detecting the generating location of an oscillation by measuring the travelling period.

[Claim 3] Said 1st detection means is a coordinate input unit according to claim 1 characterized by consisting of members of the shape of tabular [of magnitude almost equal to said input plate at least], or a film.

[Claim 4] It is the coordinate input unit according to claim 1 which makes said input plate an abbreviation square or an abbreviation rectangle, and is characterized by having arranged said 2nd detection means respectively along with one side of X shaft orientations of the input plate, and one side of Y shaft orientations.

[Claim 5] Said 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means are a coordinate input unit according to claim 1 to 3 characterized by being the piezoelectric device of the shape of tabular or a film.

[Claim 6] Said projection is a coordinate input unit according to claim 1 characterized by being regularly arranged by X shaft orientations and Y shaft orientations at almost equal spacing.

[Claim 7] A coordinate input unit given [said projection] in hemispherical, cylindrical or claim 1 characterized by having formed in the shape of a cone and setting up the diameter of the base among 1mm from 10 micrometers, or 5.

[Claim 8] Claim 1 characterized by setting up the distance during the two salient points which formed said projection a prismatic form or in the shape of a pyramid, and

carried out the maximum alienation in the base among 1mm from 10 micrometers, or a coordinate input unit given in 5.

[Claim 9] The coordinate input unit according to claim 1 characterized for said input plate and said propagation object by formation ****** in one with the same construction material.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the coordinate input unit which detects a coordinate location by the propagation delay time of the elastic wave of an elastic body.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, as this kind of a coordinate input unit, there are some which are indicated by JP,63-239518,A, for example. This pushes the oscillating pen which carries out supersonic vibration against the input plate which consists of a glass plate etc., detects it by the sensor in which the oscillation told to the glass plate from this oscillating pen was prepared in the predetermined location of a glass plate, and computes the forcing location of an oscillating pen by the detection time delay of an oscillation.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in an oscillating pen type coordinate input method which was described above, the signal line for I/O of the lead wire for giving energy and a signal was required for the vibrator built in the oscillating pen, and when a user used an oscillating pen, the vibrator which there is a problem that where of this lead wire and signal line become obstructive, and operability worsens, and consists of the piezoelectric device of a laminating mold had the fault that cost became high.

[0004] Furthermore, although the wireless type which puts in a cell in an oscillating pen and performs an exchange of a signal with infrared radiation etc. was also considered, while the oscillating pen's itself becoming heavy and being hard coming to use it by putting in a cell inevitably, since it was a special pen, there was same fault that cost became high.

[0005] Moreover, in the conventional oscillating pen type coordinate input method, since the oscillating generating location was detected by detecting the supersonic vibration told to a transfer plate from an oscillating pen, when especially writing pressure was high, the skin temperature of a transfer plate rose locally, group velocity Vg and the proper rate of phase velocity **** changed, and there was also a problem that detection precision did not come out.

[0006] This invention is made in order to solve the trouble mentioned above, and it is cheap and it aims at offering the coordinate input unit excellent in operability.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain this object the coordinate input unit

of this invention It has the propagation object which spreads mechanical oscillation, and a detection means to detect the oscillation spread with the propagation object, and to change into an electrical signal. In the coordinate input unit which detects the generating location of the oscillation by measuring the travelling period of an oscillation based on the electrical signal from the detection means It has the input plate which is formed the non-vibrated pen which does not have an oscillating source of release, and on said propagation object, and has much projections on a front face. Said detection means The 1st detection means which first detects the oscillation generated by being prepared through said propagation object under said input plate, and contacting said non-vibrated pen on the front face of said input plate, It is prepared in at least two on said propagation object, and consists of two or more 2nd detection means to detect said oscillation following on said 1st detection means, respectively.

[0008] Moreover, it is desirable by making time amount until an oscillation is detected by said two or more second detection means on the basis of the event of an oscillation being detected by said 1st detection means into a travelling period, and measuring the travelling period to detect the generating location of an oscillation.

[0009] furthermore, the thing for which said 1st detection means is constituted from a member of the shape of tabular [of magnitude almost equal to said input plate at least], or a film -- ** -- it is desirable.

[0010] Moreover, said input plate is made into an abbreviation square or an abbreviation rectangle, and, as for said 2nd detection means, it is desirable to arrange respectively along with one side of X shaft orientations of the input plate and one side of Y shaft orientations.

[0011] Furthermore, as for said 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means, it is desirable that it is the piezoelectric device of the shape of tabular or a film.

[0012] And as for said projection, it is desirable to be regularly arranged by X shaft orientations and Y shaft orientations at almost equal spacing.

[0013] Moreover, it is desirable hemispherical and to form cylindrical or in the shape of a cone, and to set up the diameter of the base for said projection among 1mm from 10 micrometers.

[0014] Furthermore, it is desirable to set up the distance during the two salient points which formed said projection a prismatic form or in the shape of a pyramid, and carried out the maximum alienation in the base among 1mm from 10 micrometers.

[0015] And said input plate and said propagation object may be formed in one with the same construction material.

[0016]

[Function] The coordinate input unit of this invention which has the above-mentioned configuration it has the input plate which is formed the non-vibrated pen which does not have an oscillating source of release, and on said propagation object, and has much projections on a front face. Said detection means The 1st detection means which first detects the oscillation generated by being prepared through said propagation object under said input plate, and contacting said non-vibrated pen on the front face of said input plate, Since it consists of two or more 2nd detection means for it to be prepared in at least two on said propagation object, and to detect said oscillation following on said 1st detection means, respectively it is necessary to prepare neither lead wire nor a signal line in a pen, and the good coordinate input unit of operability can be offered like before.

[0017] Moreover, since the generating location of an oscillation is detected by

measuring the travelling period, the generating location of an exact oscillation is detectable [time amount until an oscillation is detected by said two or more second detection means on the basis of the event of an oscillation being detected by said 1st detection means is made into a travelling period, and] with an easy configuration. [0018] Furthermore, since said 1st detection means consists of members of the shape of tabular [of magnitude almost equal to said input plate at least], or a film, it can also detect certainly the information filled in in the direction of the edge of an input plate, for example.

[0019] Moreover, since said input plate is made into an abbreviation square or an abbreviation rectangle and said 2nd detection means is arranged respectively along with one side of X shaft orientations of the input plate, and one side of Y shaft orientations, the generating location of an oscillation is detectable with easy count. [0020] Furthermore, since said 1st detection means and the 2nd detection means consist of piezoelectric devices of the shape of tabular or a film, they can do cost prevention ***** of equipment.

[0021] And since said projection is regularly arranged by X shaft orientations and Y shaft orientations at almost equal spacing, it can detect entry information with said non-vibrated pen with a sufficient precision.

[0022] Moreover, hemispherical and the entry information according to said non-vibrated pen certainly since it formed cylindrical or in the shape of a cone and the diameter of the base is set up among 1mm from 10 micrometers are [said projection] detectable.

[0023] Furthermore, said projection is formed a prismatic form or in the shape of a pyramid, and since the distance during the two salient points which carried out the maximum alienation in the base is set up among 1mm from 10 micrometers, entry information with said non-vibrated pen is certainly detectable.

[0024] And by forming said input plate and said propagation object in one with the same construction material, components mark can be reduced and cost can be reduced.

[0025]

[Example] Hereafter, the example which materialized the coordinate input unit of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing.

[0026] The configuration of the coordinate input unit of this example is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

[0027] As shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2, the coordinate input device of this example equips the plate of the abbreviation square which does not have an oscillating source of release, for example, consists of resin, such as the non-vibrated pen 1 which consists of plastics, glass, or an acrylic, with the embossing plate 3 which formed in the front face many bosses 2 of the shape of a semi-sphere whose diameter is about 100 micrometers in the shape of a matrix in all directions by performing press working of sheet metal or a resin fabricating operation. In addition, that what is necessary is just to set up said boss's 2 diameter among 10 micrometers – 1mm, by setting it as this range, when entry information with said non-vibrated pen 1 can be detected with a sufficient precision, for example, 50 micrometers and the pitch between bosses 2 are set to about 0.1mm for said boss's 2 diameter, a 0.1mm high resolution can be given in this coordinate input unit. Moreover, also about a boss's 2 configuration, it is not limited in the shape of a semi-sphere, and you may have the shape of the shape of cylindrical and a cone, a prismatic form, or a pyramid etc., and two or more kinds of

configurations may be mixed. In the case of the shape of a prismatic form or a pyramid, a boss 2 sets up the distance during the two salient points which carried out the maximum alienation in the base among 1mm from 10 micrometers. And said embossing plate 3 constitutes the input plate of this invention, and said boss 2 constitutes the projection of this invention, respectively.

[0028] Said embossing plate 3 is installed on the propagation object 7, and the sensing element 6 of the shape of tabular [of magnitude almost equal to said embossing plate 3] or a film is formed in the lower part of the propagation object 7. Moreover, on the propagation object 7, the band-like sensing elements 4 and 5 are formed along with one side of X shaft orientations of said embossing plate 3, and one side of Y shaft orientations, respectively. These sensing elements 4, 5, and 6 are constituted by the piezoelectric device, and have played the role which changes mechanical oscillation into an electrical signal. In addition, it is necessary to make magnitude of said sensing element 6 into magnitude equal to the embossing plate 3 at least, and this is for enabling it to detect also about the oscillation generated in the direction of the edge of the embossing plate 3. Therefore, if larger than the embossing plate 3, there will be especially no problem.

[0029] If a user enters an alphabetic character in the embossing plate 3 using the non-vibrated pen 1 as shown in drawing 2, the nib of the non-vibrated pen 1 will be rubbed against the front face of the embossing plate 3. Since said boss 2 is stationed regularly, the nib of the non-vibrated pen 1 collides with the crevice between two bosses 2, and the front face of the embossing plate 3 is made to generate impulsive vibration source periodically by actuation of filling in an alphabetic character. For example, when the line A as shown in drawing 2 is filled in, a crevice is collided with in the location of P1 and P2, and impulsive vibration source is made generated twice. As shown in drawing 1, the impulsive vibration source generated in P1 is spread in the direction of four directions, reaches the sensing element 6 currently installed in the nearest location from P1 which is the generating part of impulsive vibration source, and, subsequently to a propagation body surface top, reaches in order of the sensing element 4 currently installed and a sensing element 5. This sensing element 6 constitutes the 1st detection means of this invention, and sensing elements 4 and 5 constitute the 2nd detection means of this invention.

[0030] If the situation of detection by each sensing element is seen serially, the signal wave form detected by sensing elements 4, 5, and 6 will become like $\frac{\text{drawing 3}}{\text{drawing 3}}$. [0031] First, first, detect impulsive vibration source (Za), subsequently the sensing element 4 of X shaft orientations near P1 whose sensing element 6 of a Z direction is the generating part of impulsive vibration source carries out impulsive vibration source (Xa), and the sensing element 5 of Y shaft orientations carries out sequential detection of the impulsive vibration source (Ya) at the last. If these detection time lags tx1 and ty1 are measured, the location of the location P1 which impulsive vibration source generated is computable. And also about P2, if tx2 and ty2 are measured similarly, the location is computable.

[0032] Next, the block diagram of a measuring circuit is shown in <u>drawing 4</u>. The measuring circuit consists of a rectifying device 10, the amplifier & comparator circuit 11, the D-type-flip-flop circuit 12, a quartz resonator 13, a counter circuit 14, and CPU15. In the amplifier & comparator circuit 11, transform processing of the signal (Za in <u>drawing 5</u>) detected by said sensing element 6 is carried out like Zc in <u>drawing 5</u>. Furthermore, the Zc goes into the D-type-flip-flop circuit 12, and the output Q serves

as ZQ '= H'. This signal carries out the duty of a start signal which opens the gate of a counter circuit 14.

[0033] It is changed into XQ and YQ signal as shown in drawing 6 through processing with the same said of the signal detected by said sensing elements 4 and 5. And these signals carry out the duty of a stop signal which shuts the gate of a counter circuit 14. A quartz resonator 13 is the clock of for example, 10MHZ extent, and the time amount which the gate of said counter circuit 14 is opening with said start signal and stop signal counts it.

[0034] Here, when both XQ(s) and YQ(s) that are shown in <u>drawing 6</u> are set to 'L' that is, an interrupt request (INT='L') starts CPU at the same time impulsive vibration source finishes reaching sensing elements 4 and 5, and CPU15 which is an one chip microcomputer starts interruption processing.

[0035] Interruption processing is explained based on the flow chart shown in $\underline{\text{drawing}}$.

[0036] First, in interruption processing, in order to ask for an X coordinate, X counter value 16 in the measuring circuit shown in <u>drawing 4</u> is read, and it converts into a time delay txi (it calls for short step 1 and the following S1.). other steps — the same . A time delay txi is acquired by hanging 0.1microsec (one clock being 0.1microsec) on the counter value Cxi from X counter value 16. The X coordinate (Pxi) of Pi which is the generating part of an oscillation is computed by next applying velocity of propagation V to the time delay txi acquired in S1 (S2).

[0037] Then, it can ask by the approach with the same said of a Y coordinate, and a time delay tyi is found by hanging 0.1 microsec on the counter value Cyi from Y counter value 17 in the measuring circuit shown in drawing 4 (S3). The Y coordinate (Pyi) of P1 which is the generating part of an oscillation is computed by next applying velocity of propagation V to the time delay tyi acquired in S3 (S4). The positional information (Pyi, Pxi) acquired by the above processing is stored in the memory in CPU15 (S5), i which is finally an index is updated, and a reset signal is outputted (S6). In addition, said velocity of propagation V is a fixed value determined with the ingredient used as a propagation object 7.

[0038] For example, about the generating part P1 of the impulsive vibration source in drawing 2, when X counter value 16 is [counter value Cxi=10 and Y counter value 17] counter value Cyi=20, since velocity of propagation V is about 5000 m/sec in 1 clock =0.1microsec, the position coordinate of P1 is computed with = (Px1, Py1) (5 10) per mm. And after calculation is completed, in order to equip the next measurement with CPU15 in D type flip-flop 12 and a counter circuit 14, it takes out a reset signal, and returns it to an initial state.

[0039] The rates which write human being's alphabetic character are about 0.1 m/sec, if spacing of the crevice of the embossing plate 3 is set to about 100 micrometers, the impulsive vibration source of P2 will be generated after about 1 msec, and the same processing as the above will be repeated.

[0040] Thus, since neither the lead wire for giving energy nor the signal line for I/O of a signal is needed for the vibrator since the oscillating pen having vibrator is not used like before according to the coordinate input unit of this example, and the cell etc. is not built in, the pen itself will be able to become light and operability in case a user fills in an alphabetic character etc. using a pen can be raised. Moreover, since the vibrator which consists of the piezoelectric device of an expensive laminating mold is not used, the cost of equipment can be held down.

[0041] Furthermore, since the oscillating pen which emits supersonic vibration like before is not used in the coordinate input unit of this example, when writing pressure becomes high, the skin temperature of a transfer plate rises locally, group velocity Vg and the proper rate of phase velocity **** change, the problem that detection precision does not come out is lost, and a stable detection precision can always be maintained.

[0042] Moreover, since it is considering as the configuration which the sensing element 6 of magnitude almost equal to the embossing plate 3 prepares in the lower part of the propagation object 7, and the band-like sensing elements 4 and 5 prepare along with one side of X shaft orientations of the embossing plate 3, and one side of Y shaft orientations, respectively, the generating value of an oscillation is detectable with easy count.

[0043] In addition, this example is not limited to the example mentioned above, and can add various modification. for example, the above-mentioned example is shown in drawing 7, although considered as the band-like thing which has a comparatively large area as shows the configuration of sensing elements 4 and 5 drawing 2 — as — a circle configuration — small — you may make it an area piezoelectric device or a small microphone. However, the formula in that case is as follows by the theorem of 3 square one.

[0044]

x=[(d0+d1+d2) (d0+d2-d1) (d0+d1-d2) (d1+d2-d0)]1/2/2d0 y=(d02-d12+d22)/2d0 Here, d0 is the distance between two sensing elements 4 and 5, and d1 and d2 are the distance by which it was measured from P1 which is the generating part of impulsive vibration source to sensing elements 4 and 5. Furthermore, in drawing 8, although the sensing element is prepared in two places, it may prepare in three places, and you may constitute so that the generating part of impulsive vibration source may be computed based on the detection value of three places.

[0045] Moreover, in the above-mentioned example, although what formed the embossing plate 3 and the propagation object 7 independently was used, as shown in drawing 9, what formed the embossing plate 3 and the propagation object 7 in one with the same construction material may be used. By this, components mark can be reduced and cost can be reduced.

[0046]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the coordinate input unit of this invention, like [it is ****** from having explained above and] It has the input plate which is formed the non-vibrated pen which does not have a vibration source, and on said propagation object, and has much projections on a front face. Said detection means The 1st detection means which first detects the oscillation generated by being prepared through said propagation object under said input plate, and contacting said non-vibrated pen on the front face of said input plate, Since it consists of two or more 2nd detection means for it to be prepared in at least two on said propagation object, and to detect said oscillation following on said 1st detection means, respectively It is necessary to prepare neither lead wire nor a signal line in a pen, and the operability in the case of filling in an alphabetic character etc. using said non-vibrated pen can be raised like before.

[0047] Moreover, since the generating location of an oscillation is detected by measuring the travelling period, the generating location of an exact oscillation is detectable [time amount until an oscillation is detected by said two or more second

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing showing the configuration of the coordinate input unit of this example.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing the configuration of the coordinate input unit of this example.

[Drawing 3] It is the explanatory view of the signal wave form of the impulsive vibration source Za, Xa, and Ya detected by each sensing element.

[Drawing 4] It is the block diagram of the measuring circuit of this example.

[Drawing 5] It is the explanatory view of the signal wave form acquired as a result of changing impulsive vibration source Za in a measuring circuit.

[Drawing 6] It is a timing diagram between each signal.

[Drawing 7] It is the flow chart which shows interrupt processing which computes a position coordinate.

[Drawing 8] It is drawing showing the modification using the sensing element of a small area mold.

Drawing 9 It is drawing showing the modification of an embossing plate.

[Description of Notations]

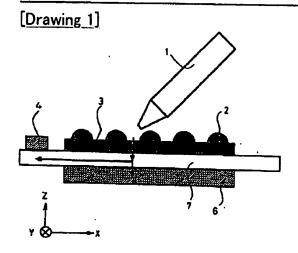
- 1 Non-Vibrated Pen
- 2 Boss
- 3 Embossing Plate
- 4 Sensing Element
- 5 Sensing Element
- 6 Sensing Element
- 7 Propagation Object

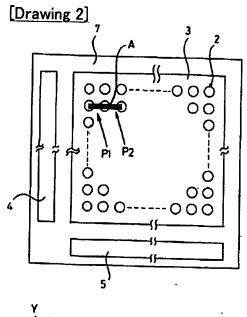
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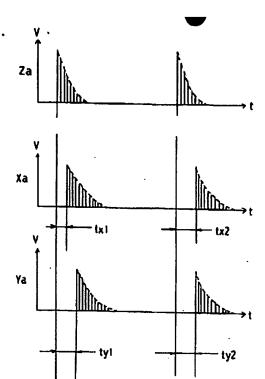
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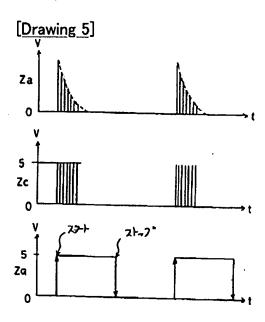
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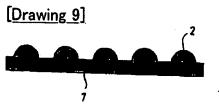




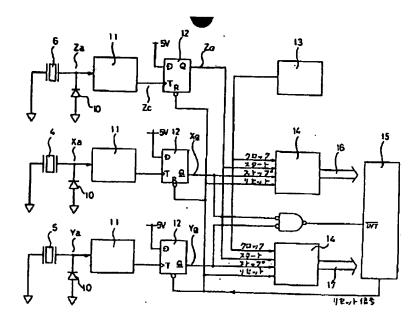
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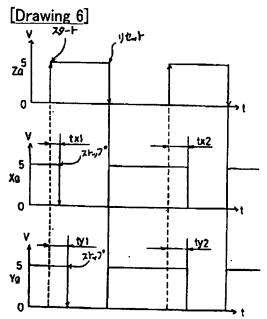




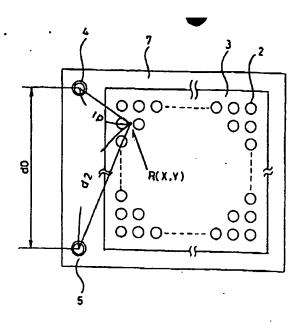


[Drawing 4]

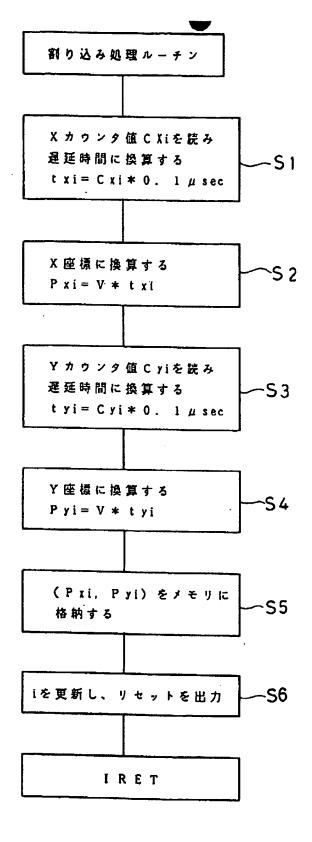




[Drawing 8]



[Drawing 7]



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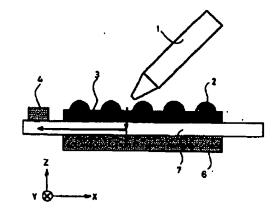
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(54) 【発明の名称】 座標入力装置

(57)【要約】

【目的】 安価で操作性に優れた座標入力装置を提供すること。

【様成】 振動発生源を有しない無振動ペン1と、伝搬体7上に設けられ、かつ表面に多数のポス2を有するエンポス板3とを備え、エンポス板3の下方に前配伝搬体7を介して検出紫子8を設け、エンポス板3のX執方向の1辺、及びY軸方向の1辺に沿って検出紫子4、5を設ける。そして、無振動ペン1をエンポス板3の表面に接触させることにより発生する振動を検出紫子8が検出し、その検出した時点を基準として、検出紫子4、5によって振動が検出されるまでの時間を伝搬時間とし、その伝搬時間を計測することにより振動の発生位置を検出する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 機械的振動を伝搬する伝搬体と、その伝 撤体によって伝搬された振動を検出して電気信号に変換 する検出手段とを備え、その検出手段からの電気信号に 基づいて振動の伝摘時間を計測することによりその振動 の発生位置を検出する座標入力装置において、

振動発生顔を有しない無振動ペンと、前記伝搬体上に設 けられ、かつ表面に多数の突起を有する入力板とを備 t.

前記検出手段は、前記入力板の下方に前記伝搬体を介し 10 て設けられ、かつ前配無振動ペンを前記入力板の表面に 接触させることによって発生する振動を最初に検出する 第1の検出手段と、前記伝搬体上の少なくとも2箇所に 設けられ、それぞれ前記版動を前記第1の検出手段に引 統き検出する複数の第2の検出手段とから成るととを特 徴とする座標入力装置。

【請求項2】 前記第1の検出手段によって振動が検出 された時点を基準として、前記複数の第二の検出手段に よって振動が検出されるまでの時間を伝搬時間とし、そ することを特徴とする請求項1に記載の座標入力装置。

【請求項3】 前記第1の検出手段は、少なくとも前記 入力板とほぼ等しい大きさの板状もしくはフィルム状の 部材で構成されていることを特徴とする讚求項1に記載 の座棋入力装置。

【請求項4】 前記入力板を略正方形もしくは略長方形 とし、前記第2の検出手段は、その入力板のX軸方向の 一辺、及びY軸方向の一辺にそれぞれ沿って配置したと とを特徴とする韓求項1に配載の座標入力装置。

【 請求項5 】 前記第1の検出手段及び第2の検出手段 30 は、板状もしくはフィルム状の圧電素子であるととを特 徴とする請求項1乃至請求項3に記載の座標入力装置。

【請求項6】 前記突起は、ほぼ等しい間隔でX軸方向 及びY軸方向に規則正しく配列されていることを特徴と する請求項1に記載の座標入力装置。

【闘求項7】 前配突起を半球状、円柱状あるいは円錐 状に形成し、その底面の直径を10μmから1mmの間 に設定したことを特徴とする請求項1もしくは5 化配銭 の座標入力装置。

【間求項8】 前配突起を角柱状あるいは角錐状に形成 40 し、その底面の最大離間した2つの角点の間の距離を1 0 μ m から 1 m m の間に設定したことを特徴とする請求 項1もしくは5に配載の座標入力装置。

【 間求項 9 】 前記入力板と前記伝搬体とを同一の材質 で一体的に形成たことを特徴とする請求項1に記載の座 **棣入力装置。**

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、弾性体の弾性波の伝搬

るものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来、との種の座標入力装置としては、 例えば、特別昭63-239518号公報に開示される ものがある。これは、超音波振動する振動ペンをガラス 板等からなる入力板に押し付け、この振動ペンからガラ ス板に伝えられた振動をガラス板の所定位置に設けられ たセンサによって検出し、振動の検出遅延時間によって 振動ペンの押し付け位置を算出するものである。

[0003]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上記し たような振動ペン式座標入力方式では、振動ペンに内蔵 された振動子にエネルギーを与えるためのリード線、及 び借号の入出力のための信号線が必要であり、ユーザー が振動ペンを使用する場合に、とのリード線や信号線が 邪魔になり、操作性が悪くなるという問題があり、ま た、積層型の圧電素子から成る振動子はコストが高くな るという欠点があった。

【0004】さらに、振動ペン内に電池を入れ、信号の の伝搬時間を計測することにより振動の発生位置を検出 20 やりとりは赤外線等で行う無線式も考えられるが、電池 を入れることにより必然的に振動ペン自体が重くなり、 使いづらくなると共に、特殊ペンであることからコスト が高くなるという同様の欠点があった。

> 【0005】また、従来の振動ペン式座標入力方式にお いては、振動ペンから伝達板に伝えられる超音波振動を 検出することにより振動発生位置を検出しているので、 特に筆圧が高い場合、伝達板の表面温度が局所的に上昇 . し、群速度Vg、位相速度Vpの固有速度が変化し、検 出精度が出ないという問題もあった。

> 【0008】本発明は、上述した問題点を解決するため になされたものであり、安価で操作性に優れた座標入力 装置を提供することを目的としている。

[0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】との目的を達成するため に本発明の座標入力装置は、機械的振動を伝搬する伝搬 体と、その伝説体によって伝搬された振動を検出して電 気信号に変換する検出手段とを備え、その検出手段から の電気信号に基づいて振動の伝搬時間を計測するととに よりその振動の発生位置を検出する座標入力装置におい て、振動発生源を有しない無振動ペンと、前記伝搬体上 に設けられ、かつ表面に多数の突起を有する入力板とを 備え、前配検出手段は、前配入力板の下方に前配伝像体 を介して設けられ、かつ前記無振動ペンを前記入力板の 表面に接触させることによって発生する振動を最初に検 出する第1の検出手段と、前記伝搬体上の少なくとも2 箇所に設けられ、それぞれ前配振動を前配第1の検出手 段に引続き検出する複数の第2の検出手段とから構成さ

【0008】また、前配第1の検出手段によって振動が 遅延時間により座標位置を検出する座標入力装置に関す 50 検出された時点を基準として、前記複数の第二の検出手

段によって振功が検出されるまでの時間を伝短時間と し、その伝数時間を計測することにより振动の発生位置 を検出することが超ましい。

【0008】さらに、前配第1の検出手段は、少なくと も前紀入力板とほぼ等しい大きさの板状もしくはフィル ム状の部材で构成するととがが望ましい。

【0010】 変た、前配入力板を略正方形もしくは略長 方形とし、前記第2の検出手段は、その入力板のX始方 向の一辺、及びY翰方向の一辺にそれぞれ沿って配置す ることが望ましい。

【0011】さらに、前配第1の検出手段及び第2の検 出手段は、板状もしくはフィルム状の圧電素子であると とが望ましい。

【0012】そして、前記突起は、ほぼ等しい間隔でX 始方向及びY 始方向に規則正しく配列されていることが 簺ましい。

【0013】また、前配突起を半球状、円柱状あるいは 円錐状に形成し、その底面の直径を10μmから1mm の間に設定することが望ましい。

【0014】さらに、前記突起を角柱状あるいは角壁状 20 化形成し、その底面の最大触間した2つの角点の間の距 餓を10μmから1mmの間に設定することが望まし

【0015】そして、前記入力板と前記伝設体とを同一 の材質で一体的に形成しても良い。

[0016]

【作用】上記の橡成を有する本発明の座根入力装置は、 振动発生顔を有しない無振励ペンと、前配伝授体上に設 けられ、かつ表面に多致の突起を有する入力板とを備 え、前配検出手段は、前配入力板の下方に前配伝撥体を 30 介して設けられ、かつ前記無振励ペンを前記入力板の表 面に接触させることによって発生する振助を最初に検出 する第1の検出手段と、前記伝線体上の少なくとも2箇 所に殴けられ、それぞれ前配振励を前配第1の検出手段 に引続き検出する複数の第2の検出手段とから構成され ているので、従来のように、ペンにリード娘や信号셇等 を設ける必要がなく、操作性の良い座根入力装置を提供 することができる。

【0017】また、前配第1の検出手段によって振功が 後出された時点を基準として、前配複数の第二の後出手 40 段によって振動が検出されるまでの時間を伝線時間と し、その伝娘時間を計測することにより振心の発生位置 を検出するので、歯単な樹成により、正確な振動の発生 位置を検出することができる。

【0018】さらに、前記第1の検出手段は、少なくと も前配入力板とほぼ等しい大きさの板状もしくはフィル ム状の部材で収成されているので、例えば、入力板の場 の方で配入された情報も確実に検出することができる。

【0018】また、前記入力板を略正方形もしくは略長

向の一辺、及びY科方向の一辺にそれぞれ沿って配置す るので、簡単な計算により振動の発生位置を検出すると とができる。

【0020】さらに、前記第1の検出手段及び第2の検 出手段は、板状もしくはフィルム状の圧電索子で似成さ れているので、装置のコスト抑えるととができる。

【0021】そして、前配突起は、ほぼ等しい間隔でX 物方向及びY的方向に規則正しく配列されているので、 前配無振功ペンによる記入情報を狷宜良く検出すること 10 ができる。

【0022】また、前配突起を半球状、円柱状あるいは 円錐状に形成し、その底面の直径を10μmから1mm の間に設定しているので、確実に前記無振励ペンによる 記入얚報を検出することができる。

【0023】さらに、前記突起を角柱状あるいは角錐状 に形成し、その底面の最大触面した2つの角点の面の距 刷を10μmから1mmの間に設定しているので、確実 に前記無協的ペンによる記入情報を検出することができ

【0024】そして、前記入力板と前記伝撽体とを同一 の材質で一体的に形成することにより、部品点数を減ら すことができ、コストを低下させることができる。 [0025]

【実施例】以下、本発明の座根入力装置を具体化した実 施例を図面を参照して説明する。

【0028】本実施例の座银入力装置の標成を1図及び 2図に示す。

【0027】図1及び図2に示すように、本実施例の座 根入力装置は、振励発生源を有しない、例えば、ブラス チックからなる無振励ペン1、ガラスまたはアクリル等 の樹脂から成る略正方形の板に、ブレス加工あるいは樹 間成形加工等を施すととにより、表面に直径が約100 μm程度の半球状のボス2を縦横にマトリックス状に多 数個形成したエンボス板3を倒えている。尚、前配ボス 2の直径は、10µm~1mmの間に設定すれば良く、 この随囲に設定するととで、前記無振励ペン1による記 入佾報を얚度良く検出するととができ、例えば、前記ボ ス2の直径を50μm、ポス2間ピッチを0.1mm程 度にした場合、この座根入力装置においては、0.1m mの高分解能をもたせることができる。また、ポス2の 形状についても、半球状に限定されるものではなく、円 柱状、円錐状、角柱状あるいは角錐状等であっても良 く、複数粒類の形状が混ざっていても良い。ポス2が、 角柱状あるいは角錐状の場合は、その底面の最大配間し た2つの角点の間の距離を10 µmから1mmの間に設 定する。そして、前配エンポス板3が、本発明の入力板 を、前記ボス2が卒発明の突起をそれぞれ彻成してい

【0028】前記エンポス板3は伝搬体7上に設置され 方形とし、前記第2の検出手段は、その入力板のX2幅方 50 ており、その伝搬体7の下方には前記エンポス板3とほ ば等しい大きさの板状もしくはフィルム状の検出素子6 が設けられている。また、伝搬体7上には、前記エンボ ス板3のX輪方向の1辺、及びY軸方向の1辺に沿っ て、帯状の検出素子4、5がそれぞれ設けられている。 との検出素子4,5,8は、圧電素子によって構成され ており、機械的振動を電気信号に変換する役割を果たし ている。尚、前記検出素子6の大きさは、少なくとも、 エンポス板3と等しい大きさにする必要があり、これ は、エンボス板3の路の方で発生した振動についても検 出できるようにするためである。従って、エンボス板3 10 よりも大きければ、特に問題はない。

【0029】使用者が、図2に示すように、無振動ペン 1を用いて、エンボス板3に文字を記入すると、無振動 ペン1のペン先はエンボス板3の表面に擦り付けられ る。エンボス板3の表面には、前記ボス2が規則正しく 配置されているので、文字を記入するという動作によ り、2つのボス2間の凹部に無振動ペン1のペン先がぶ つかり、衝撃振動を周期的に発生させることになる。例 えば、図2に示すような線Aを記入した場合、P1及び ることになる。P1で発生した衝撃振動は、図1に示す ように、上下左右方向に伝搬し、衝撃振動の発生箇所で あるP1から最も近い場所に設置されている検出素子6 に到達し、次いで、伝搬体表面上に設置されている検出 案子4、検出案子5の類に到達する。この検出案子6が 本発明の第1の検出手段を構成し、検出素子4,5が本 発明の第2の検出手段を構成している。

[0030] 各検出素子による検出の様子を時系列的に みると、検出素子4.5.8によって検出された信号波 形は、図3のようになる。

【0031】まず、最初に2方向の検出素子8が衝撃振 助(Za)を検出し、ついて、衝撃振動の発生箇所であ るP1に近いX軸方向の検出索子4が衝撃振動(Xa) を、最後にY軸方向の検出案子5が衝撃振動(Ya)を 廟次検出する。この検出時間の遅れtx1、ty1を測定 すれば衝撃振動が発生した場所PIの位置を算出すると とができる。そして、P2についても、同様にtx2. ty2を測定すれば、その位置を算出することができ

【0032】次に、測定回路のブロック図を図4に示 す。測定回路は、整流素子10、アンプ&コンパレータ 回路11、D型フリップフロップ回路12、水晶振動子 13、カウンタ回路14及びCPU15から構成されて いる。前記検出案子6で検出された信号(図5中の2 a)は、アンプ&コンバレータ回路11において図5中 のZcのように変換処理される。さらに、そのZcは、 D型フリップフロップ回路12に入り、その出力Qは2 。 (='H')となる。 この信号がカウンタ回路14の ゲートを開けるスタート信号の役目をする。

いても同様の処理を経て、図6に示すようなX_a、Y_a信 号に変換される。 そして、 とれらの信号は、 カウンタ回 路14のゲートを閉めるストップ信号の役目をする。水 品振動子13は、例えば、10MHZ程度のクロックであ り、前記カウンタ回路14のゲートが前記スタート信号 とストップ信号とによって開いている時間がカウントさ れる.

【0034】ととで、図6に示すXg、Ygが共化'L' になった場合、つまり衝撃振動が検出素子4、5に到達 し終わると同時にCPUに割り込み要求(INT=' L')がかかり、ワンチップマイコンであるCPU15 は割り込み処理に入る。

【0035】割り込み処理について、図7に示すフロー チャートに基づいて説明する。

【0038】まず、割り込み処理ではX座標を求めるた めに、図4に示す例定回路におけるXカウンタ値18を 読み込み、遅延時間 t x i に換算する (ステップ1、以 下S1と略称する。他のステップも同様)。遅延時間も xiは、Xカウンタ値16からのカウンタ値Cxiに P2の位置で凹部にふつかり、衝撃振動を<math>2回発生させ 20 0 1 μ s e c (1 0 0 1 μ s e c e b bることによって得られる。次ぎに、S1において得られ た遅延時間txiに伝搬速度Vを掛けることにより、振 動の発生箇所であるPiのX座標(Pxi)を算出する (S2).

> 【0037】続いて、Y座標についても同様の方法によ り求めることができ、図4に示す例定回路におけるYカ ウンタ値17からのカウンタ値Cyiに0.1μsec を掛けることによって遅延時間 t y i を求める(S 3)。次ぎに、S3において得られた遅延時間tyiに 伝搬速度Vを掛けることにより、振動の発生箇所である P1のY座標 (Pyi)を算出する (S4)。以上の処 理によって得られた位置情報(Pyi, Pxi)をCP U15内にあるメモリに格納し(S5)、最後にインデ ックスであるiを更新しリセット信号を出力する(S 6)。尚、前配伝搬速度Vは、伝搬体7として用いる材 料によって決定される固定値である。

【0038】例えば、図2における衝撃振動の発生箇所 Plについて、Xカウンタ値16がカウンタ値Cxi= 10. Yカウンタ値17がカウンタ値Cyi=20の場 合、1クロック=0. 1μsecで伝搬速度Vが約50 00m/secであることから、P1の位置座標はmm 単位で(Px1,Pyl)=(5, 10)と算出され る。そして、算出が終了すると、CPU15はD型フリ ップフロップ12及びカウンタ回路14に次の測定に備 えるためリセット信号を出し、初期状態に戻す。

【0039】人間の文字を書く速度は、約0.1m/s e c であり、エンポス板3の凹部の間隔を約100 μm とすると、P2の衝撃振動は約1msec後に発生し、 上記と同様の処理が繰り返される。

【0033】前記検出業子4、5で検出された信号につ 50 【0040】 このように、本実施例の座標入力装置によ

れば、従来のように、振助子を内蔵した振助ペンを用い ていないので、その短途子にエネルギーを与えるための リード線や信号の入出力のための信号線を必要とせず、 また、図池等を内蔵していないので、ペン自体が僅いも のとなり、ユーザーがペンを用いて文字等を記入する場 合の操作性を向上させることができる。また、高価な税 **層型の圧電気子から成る振励子を用いていないので、装** 蹬のコストを抑えることができる。

【0041】さらに、本実施例の座根入力装置において いないので、筬圧が高くなることにより伝達板の表面温 度が局所的に上昇し、群速度Vg、位相速度Vpの固有 速度が変化して検出領度が出ないといった問題がなくな り、常に、安定した検出精度を保つことができる。

【0042】また、伝撽体7の下方にエンポス板3とほ*

 $X = [(d0+d1+d2)(d0+d2-d1)(d0+d1-d2)(d1+d2-d0)]^{1/1}/2d0$

 $y = (d0^{2} - d1^{2} + d2^{2})/2d0$

ととで、dOは2つの検出素子4.5間の距離であり、d 1, ぬは、 紡塚振鴎の発生箇所であるP1から検出衆子 いては、検出案子を2箇所に設けているが、3箇所に設 けて、その3箇所の検出値に基づいて領容振励の発生箇 所を算出するように松成しても良い。

【0045】また、上記実施例においては、エンポス板 3と伝数体7を別々に形成したものを使用したが、図9 に示すように、エンポス板3と伝搬体7とを同じ材質で 一体的に形成したものを用いても良い。これによって、 部品点数を減らすことができ、コストを低下させること ができる。

[0046]

【発明の効果】以上説明したことから明かなように、本 発明の座標入力装置によれば、振砂源を有しない無振励 ペンと、前記伝搬体上に設けられ、かつ表面に多数の突 起を有する入力板とを惚え、前配検出手段は、前配入力 板の下方に前配伝線体を介して設けられ、かつ前配無線 **ゆペンを前記入力板の表面に接触させることによって発** 生する振励を最初に検出する第1の検出手段と、前配伝 撥体上の少なくとも2箇所に設けられ、それぞれ前記摄 助を前記第1の検出手段に引続き検出する複数の第2の 検出手段とから組成されているので、従来のように、ペ 40 2 ポス ・ンにリード線や信号線等を設ける必要がなく、前記無振 ゆペンを用いて文字等を記入する場合の操作性を向上さ せることができる。

【0047】象た、前配第1の検出手段によって振功が **検出された時点を基準として、前記複数の第二の検出手**

* ぼ等しい大きさの検出京子6が設け、エンボス板3のX **対方向の1辺、及びY対方向の1辺に沿って、帯状の検** 出家子4. 5がそれぞれ設ける根成としているので、館 単な計算によって振励の発生値を検出することができ

【0043】尚、本実施例は、上述した実施例に限定さ れるものではなく、和々の変更を加えることができる。 例えば、上記の実施例においては、検出案子4,5の形 状を図2示すような比較的面积の広い帯状のものとした は、従来のように超音波振励を発する振励ペンを用いて 10 が、図7に示すように、円形状の小面積な圧電索子、あ るいは小型マイクロフォンにしても良い。ただし、その 場合の算出式は、3平方の定理により以下のようにな る。

段によって振動が検出されるまでの時間を伝搬時間と し、その伝数時間を計測することにより振効の発生位置 4. 5 までの計測された距離である。 さらに、図8にお 20 を検出するので、簡単な梯成により、正確な振功の発生 位置を検出することができる。

【図面の館単な説明】

[0044]

【図1】 本実施例の座根入力装置の構成を示す図であ

【図2】本実施例の座根入力装置の椴成を示す図であ 3.

【図3】各検出衆子によって検出される衝象振動Za. Xa, Yaの信号波形の説明図である。

【図4】本実施例の測定回路のブロック図である。

【図5】循環振动Zaを測定回路において変換した結果 30 得られる信号波形の説明図である。

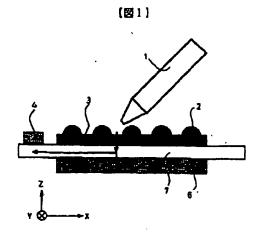
【図6】各信号間のタイムチャートである。

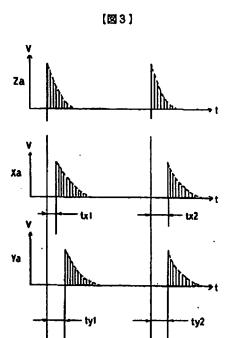
【図7】位置座根を算出する部込み処理を示すフローチ

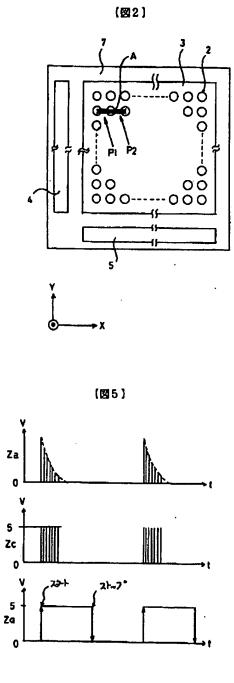
【図8】小面積型の検出寮子を用いた変形例を示す図で

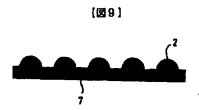
【図9】エンポス板の変形例を示す図である。 【符号の説明】

- 1 無振励ペン
- - 3 エンポス板
 - 4 検出家子
 - 5 檢出器子
 - 6 検出衆子
 - 7 伝数体

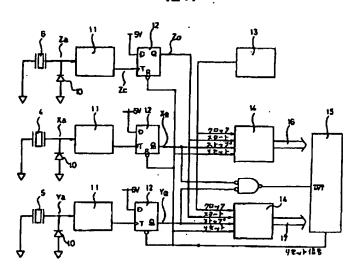


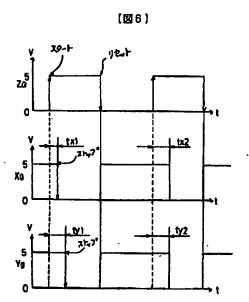


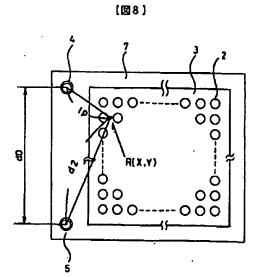




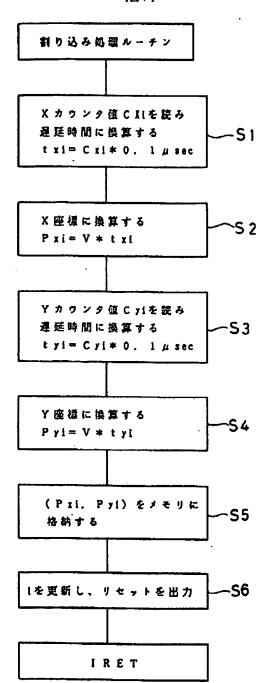
[図4]







【図7】



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

the Application of

Hidehito IISAKA et al.

Application No.: 10/097,355

Filed: March 15, 2002

Docket No.: 112297

For: COORDINATE INPUT DEVICE DETECTING TOUCH ON BOARD ASSOCIATED

WITH LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED

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Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. The reference was cited in a counterpart foreign office action. (Ref. 1)
- 3. An English-language Abstract of the non-English language reference is attached hereto. (Ref. 1)
- 4. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publication has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([http://www.jpo.go.jp]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See Reference 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 4, 2004

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